

**From:** Joseph Hubbard <Hubbard.Joseph@epamail.epa.gov> on behalf of R6 Press <R6Press@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 9:05 AM  
**Subject:** Daily News Digest, Friday, January 17  
**Attachments:** Daily News Digest 011714.pdf

*(See attached file: Daily News Digest 011714.pdf)*

**1 - Plaquemines air testing finds potential health concerns near coal terminals, Times Picayune, 1/16/14**

[http://impact.nola.com/environment/print.html?entry=/2014/01/plaquemines\\_residents\\_air\\_test.html](http://impact.nola.com/environment/print.html?entry=/2014/01/plaquemines_residents_air_test.html)

After three months of air monitoring near a Plaquemines Parish coal export terminal, some Plaquemines residents concerned about respiratory illnesses have found potentially unhealthy levels of pollution, according to a coalition of local and national environmental groups. Testing results show that air near the International Marine Terminal in Port Sulphur showed signs of elevated fine particulate matter, known as PM-10, that could potentially cause health concerns to sensitive people if there was long-term exposure.

**2 – Emails between EPA, enviro group become talking point in GHG rule battle, Greenwire, 1/17/14**

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/01/16/stories/1059993071>

Coal industry allies on and off Capitol Hill have seized on emails sent between a Sierra Club lobbyist and U.S. EPA staff that they say confirm their belief that the agency and environmental advocates colluded to write a new power plant rule that would end coal-fired electric generation in the United States.

**3 – EPA chief denies that politics delayed pollution rules, Cross Roads, 1/16/14**

[http://www.crossroadstoday.com/content/news/story/EPA-chief-denies-that-politics-delayed-pollution/Ya\\_K9SH7WUSdXtPS\\_u34tQ.csp](http://www.crossroadstoday.com/content/news/story/EPA-chief-denies-that-politics-delayed-pollution/Ya_K9SH7WUSdXtPS_u34tQ.csp)

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday denied Republican claims that the agency delayed formal publication of rules, intended to limit carbon pollution from new power plants, for political reasons.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said the agency submitted the rules for publication last fall and "tried very hard" to get them published in the Federal Register. The rules were finally published last week.

**4 - BP forecasts rise in GHG levels over next 20 years, Climate Wire, 1/16/14**

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2014/01/17/stories/1059993091>

A new BP PLC report found global greenhouse gas emissions are expected to increase by almost a third in the next two decades, making ambitions to stave off perilous climate change unlikely to be realized. Despite international attempts to reduce carbon and major growth in shale gas use, the extreme rise in emissions will be inevitable, according to BP.

**5 – Texas lawmakers to probe whether quakes are related to drilling waste, Energy Wire, 1/17/14**

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/01/17/stories/1059993122>

The Texas Legislature has formed a subcommittee to investigate whether a series of earthquakes northwest of Fort Worth is related to oil and gas drilling activities. The creation of the panel is the latest response to criticism from rattled residents around Azle, Texas, upset by the state's response.

**6 – Louisiana forests being sacrificed to fuel Europe's biomass boom, Aljazeera America, 1/15/14**

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/1/16/green-energy-demandineuropemaybethreateningamericanforests.html>

The smell of freshly cut wood wafting from a dirt lot along an industrial stretch of road near the state capital might not conjure up an image of green energy, but some say this is the future of sustainability. The smell comes from two white plastic domes rising high along the Mississippi River. Stored inside those domes are millions of wood pellets, which started as trees in the surrounding 50- to 75-mile area, and were converted to easily shippable and burnable material at mammoth factories where wood can stretch as far as the eye can see.

**7 – Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn says he'll retire at end of the year, LA Times, 1/16/13**

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-pn-tom-coburn-retiring-20140116.0.4396804.story#ixzz2qfNtfuh1>

Republican Sen. [Tom Coburn](#) said late Thursday that he will leave [Congress](#) at the end of this session, two years before his term expires. The Oklahoma senator who pioneered budget slashing before the ascent of the [tea party](#) has been battling cancer, but had always said he would limit his time in office. His departure will set up a special election in the Republican-heavy state.

**8 - McCarthy Defends EPA Tactics to Tamp Down Power Plant Carbon Pollution, Energy Wire, 1/16/14**

<http://www.powermag.com/mccarthy-defends-epa-tactics-to-tamp-down-power-plant-carbon-pollution/?printmode=1>

Witnesses from four federal agencies, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy, answered pointed questions about the president's June 2013–released Climate Action Plan (CAP) and associated rules at an oversight hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works today.

**9 - Texas receives D+ grade for its emergency care environment, San Antonio Business Journal, 1/17/14**

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/blog/morning-edition/2014/01/texas-receives-d-grade-for-its.html?s=print>

Texas is headed in the wrong direction when it comes to its level of support for emergency care. The Lone Star State ranked 29th in the U.S. in 2009. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) ranked Texas 29th in 2009 in its state-by-state report card on the nation's emergency care environment. This year, ACEP has ranked Texas 38th, giving the Lone Star State a failing grade in three out of five critical categories, including Access to Emergency Care.

**10 - Texas environmental agency names new director, Seattle PI, 1/15/14**

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/texas/article/Texas-environmental-agency-names-new-director-5145958.php>

The [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) announced in a statement that the agency's three commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday to appoint [Richard Hyde](#). Hyde replaces [Zak Covar](#), who became a commissioner earlier this month. Hyde has been the agency's deputy executive director since 2012. Hyde has been working in the agency since 1992 and has also overseen several divisions.

**11 – Landscapes Tainted by Asbestos, NY Times, 1/17/14**

[http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/17/landscapes-tainted-by-asbestos/?\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&\\_php=true&\\_type=blogs&r=1&](http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/01/17/landscapes-tainted-by-asbestos/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs&r=1&)

For the past few years, Brenda Buck has been sampling the dust blowing across southern Nevada. Until recently, she focused on the risks of airborne elements such as arsenic. But then she started noticing an oddity in her samples, a sprinkling of tiny, hairlike mineral fibers.

**12 - Texas House creates subcommittee on earthquake, El Paso Times, 1/16/14**

[http://www.elpasotimes.com/texas/ci\\_24927384/texas-house-creates-subcommittee-earthquakes#](http://www.elpasotimes.com/texas/ci_24927384/texas-house-creates-subcommittee-earthquakes#)

The chairman of the Texas House Committee Energy on Energy Resources has set up a team of lawmakers to investigate earthquakes in oil and gas regions. Chairman Jim Keffer on Thursday named three Republicans and one Democrat to the "Subcommittee on Seismic Activity"

**13 - Don't know fracking... there's an app for that, Dallas Morning News, 1/16/14**

<http://bizbeatblog.dallasnews.com/2014/01/dont-know-fracking-from-spindletop-theres-an-app-for-that.html/>

In a sign the smart phone revolution knows no bounds, one of the country's most prominent law firms has announced it's created its own app to help clients navigate the jargonistic world of oil investing. Bracewell & Giuliani, the national firm of which former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani is a partner, has developed what it calls its ShalePlay app (available free in the iTunes store).

**14 - Small Houston oil and gas firm joins list of players aiming to unlock Tuscaloosa Marine Shale potential**

**, Times Picayune, 1/16/14**

[http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/01/small\\_houston\\_oil\\_and\\_gas\\_firm.html](http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/01/small_houston_oil_and_gas_firm.html)

A Houston oil and gas company will drill its first well in the emerging Tuscaloosa Marine Shale reservoir in coming months, adding to the list of companies aiming to unlock the area's potential. Sanchez Energy Corp. of Houston said Wednesday (Jan. 15) that it plans to invest \$650 million to \$700 million to drilling projects in 2014, about 10 percent of which will be directed to activities in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale.

**15 - EPA's Gina McCarthy Statement on President's Climate Action Plan, Daily KOS, 1/16/14**

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/01/16/1270264/-EPA-s-Gina-McCarthy-Statement-on-President-s-Climate-Action-Plan#>

In June of last year, the President reaffirmed his commitment to reducing carbon pollution when he directed many federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, to take meaningful steps to mitigate the current and future damage caused by carbon dioxide emissions and to prepare for the anticipated climate changes that have already been set in motion. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Based on the evidence, more than 97% of climate scientists are convinced that human-caused climate change is occurring. If our changing climate goes unchecked, it will have devastating impacts on the United States and the planet. Reducing carbon pollution is critically important to the protection of Americans' health and the environment upon which our economy depends.